Reduction in charges of BSNL

97. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has slashed rent and other charges *w.e.f.* December 30, 2005;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether MTNL has also taken any steps to cut down its rental and other charges, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) BSNL has slashed the monthly rental for exchange system capacity of more than 1 lakh in General Package and also revised alternative packages for Basic and WLL services with effect from 1st January 2006.

(b) The details of reduction in rental for General Package and revised alternative packages are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) A detail statement is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of reduction in rental packages of BSNL

1-General Package

The revised rental applicable for General Package.

Monthly Rental Charges for B-fone/WLL (F)

Rental charges	Existing (General Plan)		Revised (General Plan)	
Exchange System Capacity	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Less than 1000 lines	Rs. 50	Rs. 120	Rs. 50	Rs. 120
1000 lines to<30000 lines	Rs. 110	Rs. 120	Rs. 110	Rs. 120
30000 lines to<100000 lines	Rs. 150	Rs. 180	Rs. 150	Rs. 180
100000 lines and above	Rs. 210	Rs. 250	Rs. 150	Rs. 180
FREE CALLS	75	50	75	50

2. Alternative Packages:

In addition to the general package, revise/additional alternative packages for customers under B-fone/WLL (F).

Particulars	Sulabh	BSNL Economy	BSNL special	BSNL special Plus	BSNL super	BSNL Premium
Fixed monthly charges as per Ex. System capacity						
Less than 30000 lines	Rs. 99	Rs. 300	Rs. 375	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450
>30000 to <100000 lines	Rs. 120	Rs. 300	Rs. 425	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450
>100000 lines	Rs. 160	Rs. 300	Rs. 475	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450
Free Calls (MCU)	0	200	400/450/500	1100	1800	3500
Unit Rate (beyond free calls)	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.00	0.90	0.80

Statement-II

Details of reduction in rental packages of MTNL

MTNL has cut down its rental and/or other charges as detailed below:—

(1) MTNL Delhi has introduced a new tariff plan "Jeevan Sathi" for its prepaid Trump Mobile services *w.e.f.* 1.1.2006 whereby Rs. 900+Tax (One time) will be charged from the customers with life time validity without any change in existing call rates. One recharge will however be required in 6 months. This is also applicable in Mumbai since 2.1.2006.

(2) MTNL Delhi has also introduced Dolphin "Jeevan Sathi" plan with one time rental fee of Rs. 800+Tax with life time validity (no monthly rental subsequently) *w.e.f.* 15.1.2006.

(3) MTNL, Delhi has also reduced the call charges from Rs. 0.80/ minute to Re. 0.75/minute for local calls to MTNL network under its Budget Plan, Economy Plan, Plan A and Plan B for its postpaid (Dolphin) mobile services customers since 15.1.2006.

(4) MTNL Delhi has also reduced the security deposit for a new non-ISD landline connection from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 1000. Existing practice of taking upfront charges at rate of Rs. 2000 as security deposit towards Broadband facilities with new

telephone connection to be adjusted towards the security deposit of new telephone connection has also been dispensed from 6.1.2006.

(5) MTNL Mumbai has reduced the security deposit for New Telephone connection with STD from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 1000.

(6) MTNL Mumbai has also increased the talk value of its prepaid coupons in the following plans:—

Plan	Old	New	Years
900	100	600	1 year
1600	200	1200	2 years
2400	500	1800	3 years

Emergence of India as chip design hub

98. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is fast emerging as a chip design hub of the world;

(b) whether India is better placed than China in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to give a further boost to this industry and set up projects in the backward regions of the country *i.e.* Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar etc., to improve their economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) According to the Indian Semiconductor Association (ISA)—Frost & Sullivian Report, 2006, the revenue from the chip design market in India has increased from Rs. 1820 crore in 2004 to Rs. 2507 crore in 2005 and is expected to grow to Rs. 21,868 crore by 2015. Chip design is essentially a software activity.